

#9/A

2139.24

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Shigenori Ohta, et al. ) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned ) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
(National Phase of PCT Application )  
No. PCT/JP00/08391 filed Nov. 29, 2000) )  
Filed: Currently herewith )  
For: METHOD OF ENHANCING )  
SALTY TASTE, SALTY TASTE )  
ENHANCER, SALTY TASTE )  
SEASONING AGENT AND )  
SALTY ) July 25, 2001

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to action on the merits, please amend the above-identified application  
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 7, 14, 21-24, and 40-42, to read as follows. A  
marked-up copy of Claims 7, 14, 21-24, and 40-42, showing the changes made thereto, is  
attached.

7. (Amended) The method according to any of claims 1 to 3, which further  
comprises adding succinic acid.

A<sup>2</sup>

14. (Amended) The salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to 10, further comprising succinic acid.

21. (Amended) The salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 15 to 17, further comprising succinic acid.

A<sup>3</sup>

22. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to 10.

23. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising salt and the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to 10.

24. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 15 to 17.

40. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 30 to 33.

A<sup>4</sup>

41. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising salt and the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 30 to 33.

42. A food or beverage comprising the salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 35 to 38.

[illegible]

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Entry hereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

7. (Amended) The method according to any of claims 1 to [6] 3, which further comprises adding succinic acid.

14. (Amended) The salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to [13] 10, further comprising succinic acid.

21. (Amended) The salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 15 to [20] 17, further comprising succinic acid.

22. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to [14] 10.

23. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising salt and the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 8 to [14] 10.

24. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 15 to [21] 17.

40. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 30 to [34] 33.

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41. (Amended) A food or beverage comprising salt and the salty taste enhancer according to any of claims 30 to [34] 33.

42. A food or beverage comprising the salty taste seasoning agent according to any of claims 35 to [39] 38.